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Chrono

25 February 1969

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Key Statements of Secretary Laird in
Testimony before the Senate Committee
on Foreign Relations, 20 February 1969

1. ABM--The slowdown at Moscow is the result of R&D testing (p. 229). The Soviets are testing a sophisticated new system (p. 165), also described as an upgraded system (p. 229).

2. The Chinese--will fire a test ICBM within 18 months and have a capability by 1975 of having 20-30 ICBMs that could hit us (p. 166).

3. FOBS--A new FOBS is being deployed at this time (p. 167).

4. Tallinn System--Not sure that this can be used as an ABM as presently deployed, but we know it is not hard to convert from an offensive (sic) to a defensive system (p. 261).

5. Expenditures--The Soviets are outspending us in strategic defense and having been doing so for the past 24 months, and are outspending in offensive weapons by 3 to 2--this involves all the more effort since Soviet GNP about half of ours (p. 196). The strategic defense spending ratio was 3 to 1 excluding R&D and would be higher if defensive space applications R&D were included (pp. 229-230).

6. Intelligence--Not as sure as I'd like to be about force levels in the USSR. Knows they have more ICBMs under construction and in being than the US has (p. 198).

7. Committee members made numerous quotes from the Clifford testimony in an effort to get the Secretary to agree that the Soviets were just trying to catch up and that the Moscow system was not very effective. The Secretary's response was generally in the vein that the Soviets are accelerating the arms race, particularly over the last 24 months.

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Prepared by

Copy given to
Mr. Helms at
meeting this
date.

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25 Feb